

DESCRIPTION

ACCURACY MEASUREMENT APPARATUS AND ACCURACY MEASUREMENT
METHOD FOR CHANNEL QUALITY REPORT

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Technical Field

The present invention relates to an accuracy measurement apparatus and accuracy measurement method for channel quality report.

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Background Art

Recently, in the radio communication field, high-speed packet communications such as HSDPA (High Speed Downlink Packet Access) have been attracting attention. In HSDPA, packets are transmitted at the optimal transmission rate according to the downlink propagation environment, and therefore an adaptive modulation scheme is used for packet transmission from a base station apparatus.

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In a radio communication system in which an adaptive modulation scheme is used, a mobile station apparatus obtains a CQI (Channel Quality Indicator), which is indicative of propagation environment, from the reception quality of a receive packet, and reports this CQI to the base station apparatus that transmitted the packet. Then, in order to transmit packets at the optimal transmission rate according to the reported CQI, the base station apparatus selects a transmission scheme that will achieve

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that transmission rate. A transmission scheme that will achieve that transmission rate is decided upon based on the coding rate, number of codes multiplexed, modulation scheme and so forth, for example. By this means, a desired
5 PER (Packet Error Rate), neither excessive nor inadequate, can be achieved by a mobile station apparatus.

Since a base station apparatus selects an optimal transmission rate according to the reported CQI in that way, using an adaptive modulation scheme is based on the
10 important premise of accurately reported CQIs. Consequently, methods of testing the accuracy of a reported CQI have heretofore been proposed.

For example, 3GPP, R4-021533 "VRC Test Approach", TSG-RAN Working Group 4 (Radio) meeting #25 Secaucus,
15 New Jersey, USA, 11th-15th November 2002 described a method whereby packets are continuously transmitted for a fixed period using a modulation scheme, coding rate, and transport block size corresponding to a fixed CQI, and the PER and throughput in that case are measured.

20 Specifically, packets are transmitted for a fixed period to a communication apparatus under test such as a mobile station apparatus, with a transmission rate (that is, a modulation scheme, coding rate, and transport block size) corresponding to a fixed CQI, without regard to
25 the reported CQI from that communication apparatus. During this period, the communication apparatus performs CQI reporting and also reports Ack/Nack indicating whether or not a transmitted packet has been received

correctly. Then, using the reported CQI and Ack/Nack for the same packet, the PER is calculated for each reported CQI value, and results such as those shown in FIG.1 are obtained.

5 In FIG.1, when the CQI is fixed at 10, for example, (the middle graph in the figure), if the reported CQI, which should be 10, is less than 10, this indicates that the propagation environment is poor – in other words, that the communication apparatus cannot correctly receive
10 a packet transmitted at a transmission rate corresponding to the CQI of 10. Therefore, when the reported CQI is less than 10, the PER is higher.

On the other hand, if the reported CQI is 10 or above, this indicates that the propagation environment is good
15 – in other words, that the communication apparatus can correctly receive a packet transmitted at a transmission rate corresponding to the CQI of 10. Therefore, when the reported CQI is 10 or above, the PER is low.

By using such test results, it is possible to decide
20 upon criteria such as the PER upper limit and throughput lower limit for each reported CQI value, and to determine whether or not the criteria are met for each reported CQI.

However, a problem with a method whereby packets
25 are continuously transmitted for a fixed period at a transmission rate corresponding to a fixed CQI and reported CQI accuracy is measured, as described above, is that the CQI is not fixed at a value that is optimal

for all communication apparatuses. That is to say, a communication apparatus incorporating advanced receivers such as an equalizer and interference canceler, for example, has reception performance higher than a communication apparatus that does not have such advanced receivers, and therefore the propagation environment is determined to be better than it actually is, and a CQI higher than the fixed CQI is reported frequently as the reported CQI, which consequently results in invalidity of such a reported CQI accuracy measurement test.

Also, if a communication apparatus tends to report a CQI lower than is actually the case as a reported CQI, the PERs for reported CQI values will become lower on the whole. There is thus a problem of PERs corresponding to reported CQI values easily falling below the respective decided PER upper limits, resulting in erroneous passing of the test. If such a communication apparatus that lowers a reported CQI is present in a radio communication system, packets will be transmitted at a low transmission rate overall, and overall system throughput will fall.

Disclosure of Invention

It is an object of the present invention to correctly measure the accuracy of channel quality reported from a communication apparatus.

The idea of the present invention is to conduct an accuracy measurement test of a CQI (Channel Quality Indicator), which is indicative of propagation

environment, by transmitting test data for a fixed period prior to the CQI accuracy measurement test, taking a CQI reported frequently among reported CQIs from the communication apparatus under test within that period as a fixed CQI, and transmitting accuracy measurement data for a fixed period at a transmission rate corresponding to the fixed CQI.

According to one aspect of the present invention, an accuracy measurement apparatus measures the accuracy of a channel quality report value generated by a communication apparatus, and employs a configuration having a transmitting section that transmits a predetermined signal to the communication apparatus for a fixed period; a decision section that decides upon channel quality corresponding to one report value among report values generated by the communication apparatus for a transmitted predetermined signal as a fixed channel quality; a calculation section that calculates the error rate of an accuracy measurement signal transmitted at a transmission rate in accordance with the decided fixed channel quality, the error rate being corresponding to a report value generated by the communication apparatus for this accuracy measurement signal; and a determination section that determines the accuracy of a report value generated by the communication apparatus for the accuracy measurement signal using the calculated error rate.

According to another aspect of the present invention, an accuracy measurement method measures the accuracy of

a channel quality report value generated by a communication apparatus, and has a step of transmitting a predetermined signal to the communication apparatus for a fixed period; a step of deciding upon channel quality corresponding to one report value among report values generated by the communication apparatus for a transmitted predetermined signal as a fixed channel quality; a step of transmitting an accuracy measurement signal to the communication apparatus at a transmission rate corresponding to the decided fixed channel quality; a step of calculating the error rate for the transmitted accuracy measurement signal, the error rate being corresponding to a report value generated by the communication apparatus for this accuracy measurement signal; and a step of determining the accuracy of a report value generated by the communication apparatus for the accuracy measurement signal using the calculated error rate.

20 Brief Description of Drawings

FIG.1 is a graph showing an example of results of a conventional accuracy measurement test;

FIG.2 is a block diagram showing the configuration of an accuracy measurement apparatus according to an embodiment of the present invention;

FIG.3 is a block diagram showing the configuration of a communication apparatus according to an embodiment; and

FIG.4 is a flowchart showing the operation of an accuracy measurement apparatus according to an embodiment.

5 Best Mode for Carrying out the Invention

With reference now to the accompanying drawings, an embodiment of the present invention will be explained in detail below.

FIG.2 is a block diagram showing the configuration of an accuracy measurement apparatus according to an embodiment of the present invention. The accuracy measurement apparatus shown in FIG.2 is mainly composed of a transmitting section 100 that transmits test data and accuracy measurement data, a receiving section 200 that receives Ack/Nack indicating whether or not a transmit signal has been received correctly and a reported CQI from the communication apparatus under test, and an antenna duplexing section 300 that shares an antenna between transmitting section 100 and receiving section 200.

Transmitting section 100 has a coding section 110, a modulation section 120, a radio transmitting section 130, and a scheme control section 140. Receiving section 200 has a radio receiving section 210, a CQI decoding section 220, a CQI statistical processing section 230, an Ack decoding section 240, an Ack processing section 250, a PER (Packet Error Rate) calculation section 260, and a determination section 270.

Coding section 110 codes test data and accuracy measurement data using a coding rate specified by scheme control section 140.

5 Modulation section 120 modulates test data and accuracy measurement data using a modulation scheme specified by scheme control section 140.

Radio transmitting section 130 executes predetermined radio transmission processing (such as D/A conversion and up-conversion) on coded and modulated test data and accuracy measurement data, and transmits the processed data via antenna duplexing section 300 and the antenna.

Scheme control section 140 stores coding rates and modulation schemes corresponding to CQI values, and specifies to coding section 110 and modulation section 120 respectively the coding rate and modulation scheme corresponding to a fixed CQI reported from CQI statistical processing section 230. Scheme control section 140 also specifies a predetermined coding rate and modulation scheme to coding section 110 and modulation section 120 respectively prior to a reported CQI accuracy measurement test.

Radio receiving section 210 executes predetermined radio reception processing (such as down-conversion and A/D conversion) on a signal received via the antenna and antenna duplexing section 300.

CQI decoding section 220 decodes a reported CQI contained in the received signal, and outputs the decoding

result to CQI statistical processing section 230 and PER calculation section 260.

CQI statistical processing section 230 performs statistical processing of reported CQIs corresponding to test data transmitted prior to a reported CQI accuracy measurement test, and reports the most frequently reported CQI to scheme control section 140 as a fixed CQI.

Ack decoding section 240 decodes Ack/Nack contained in the received signal, and outputs the decoding result to Ack processing section 250.

Ack processing section 250 determines from the Ack/Nack decoding result whether or not accuracy measurement data transmitted during a reported CQI accuracy measurement test has been received correctly by the communication apparatus, and reports the determination result to PER calculation section 260.

PER calculation section 260 calculates the PER in the communication apparatus for each reported CQI value from the reported CQI and Ack/Nack corresponding to accuracy measurement data transmitted during the reported CQI accuracy measurement test.

Determination section 270 performs threshold value determination for the PER for each reported CQI value calculated by PER calculation section 260, and outputs the reported CQI accuracy determination result.

FIG.3 is a block diagram showing the main configuration of a communication apparatus subject to

testing by an accuracy measurement apparatus according to an embodiment. The communication apparatus shown in FIG.3 is mainly composed of a radio receiving section 400 that executes predetermined radio reception processing (such as down-conversion and A/D conversion) on a received signal, a channel quality measurement section 410 that measures channel quality from a received signal, a CQI generation section 420 that generates a reported CQI for reporting measured channel quality, a multiplexing section 430 that multiplexes transmit data and reported CQIs, a modulation section that modulates multiplexed data, a radio transmitting section 450 that executes predetermined radio transmission processing (such as D/A conversion and up-conversion) on modulated data, and an antenna duplexing section 460 for sharing an antenna between radio receiving section 400 and radio transmitting section 450.

Next, the operation of an accuracy measurement apparatus configured as described above will be explained with reference to the flowchart shown in FIG.4.

First, prior to a reported CQI accuracy measurement test, test data is coded by coding section 110 and modulated by modulation section 120, undergoes predetermined radio transmission processing by radio transmitting section 130, and is then transmitted for a fixed period via antenna duplexing section 300 and the antenna. At this time, scheme control section 140 specifies a predetermined coding rate and modulation scheme to coding section 110

and modulation section 120 respectively, and coding section 110 and modulation section 120 perform coding and modulation respectively using the specified coding rate and modulation scheme. At this time, also, various
5 kinds of reported CQI are reported from the communication apparatus shown in FIG.3 by using a predetermined channel model in which the propagation environment varies non-periodically.

Transmitted test data is received by radio receiving
10 section 400 via the antenna and antenna duplexing section 460 of the communication apparatus shown in FIG.3, channel quality is measured by channel quality measurement section 410, and a reported CQI is obtained by CQI generation section 420. Then transmit data and the
15 reported CQI are multiplexed by multiplexing section 430, modulated by a modulation section 440, and transmitted to the accuracy measurement apparatus shown in FIG.2 from radio transmitting section 450 via antenna duplexing section 460 and the antenna. This reported CQI
20 transmission is performed at predetermined intervals, and a plurality of reported CQIs are assumed to be transmitted in the period in which the accuracy measurement apparatus shown in FIG.2 transmits test data prior to a reported CQI accuracy measurement test. Also,
25 since test data transmission is performed using a predetermined channel model in which the propagation environment varies from moment to moment, as stated above, reported CQIs of various values are transmitted

uniformly.

A reported CQI transmitted from the accuracy measurement apparatus shown in FIG.2 is received by radio receiving section 210 via the antenna and antenna
5 duplexing section 300, and undergoes predetermined radio reception processing.

The reported CQI is then decoded by CQI decoding section 220, and output to CQI statistical processing section 230. Output reported CQIs are accumulated by CQI
10 statistical processing section 230, and after the end of the test data transmission period prior to an accuracy measurement test, reported CQI statistical processing is performed (ST1000). As the result of this statistical processing, the reported CQI reported most frequently
15 from the communication apparatus shown in FIG.3 is reported to scheme control section 140 as a fixed CQI.

After the fixed CQI has been decided upon in this way, a reported CQI accuracy measurement test is started.

Specifically, when the fixed CQI is reported to
20 scheme control section 140, a transmission rate corresponding to the fixed CQI is selected based on the stored correspondence between CQI values and transmission rates (coding rates and modulation methods) (ST1100). The selected transmission rate is specified to coding
25 section 110 and modulation section 120, and accuracy measurement data is coded and modulated by coding section 110 and modulation section 120. The accuracy measurement data is then transmitted via radio transmitting section

130, antenna duplexing section 300, and the antenna. At this time, the same channel model is used as the above-described predetermined channel model used before the start of the accuracy measurement test.

5 By selecting the transmission rate taking the reported CQI reported most frequently as the fixed CQI in this way, it is possible to eliminate the influence of the reception performance of the communication apparatus shown in FIG.3 on reported CQIs. That is to say, if the communication apparatus shown in FIG.3 is 10 equipped with advanced receivers such as an equalizer and interference canceler, for example, the propagation environment is assumed to be better than it actually is, and a higher CQI is transmitted, but due to the fact that 15 statistical processing is performed the fixed CQI also becomes higher, and accuracy measurement data is transmitted at a corresponding transmission rate.

Transmitted accuracy measurement data is transmitted by radio receiving section 400 via the antenna 20 and antenna duplexing section 460 of the communication apparatus shown in FIG.3, and, in the same way as before the start of the accuracy measurement test, a reported CQI obtained from the channel quality is reported from radio transmitting section 450 via antenna duplexing 25 section 460 and the antenna. At the same time, if accuracy measurement data has been received correctly, an Ack indicating this fact is transmitted from the communication apparatus shown in FIG.3 as transmit data,

and if, on the other hand, accuracy measurement data has not been received correctly, a Nack indicating this fact is transmitted from the communication apparatus shown in FIG.3 as transmit data. At this time, in the same way
5 as before the start of the accuracy measurement test, a plurality of reported CQIs and Ack/Nack data are assumed to be transmitted during execution of the accuracy measurement test.

A reported CQI and Ack/Nack transmitted from the
10 communication apparatus shown in FIG.3 are received by radio receiving section 210 via the antenna and antenna duplexing section 300, and undergo predetermined radio reception processing.

The reported CQI is then decoded by CQI decoding
15 section 220, and output to PER calculation section 260. At the same time, Ack/Nack of the accuracy measurement data corresponding to this reported CQI is decoded by Ack decoding section 240, it is determined by Ack processing section 250 whether or not this accuracy
20 measurement data was received correctly, and the detection result is output to PER calculation section 260.

When a reported CQI and the success or failure of reception of the accuracy measurement data corresponding
25 to that reported CQI are output to PER calculation section 260, a PER is calculated for each reported CQI value by PER calculation section 260 (ST1200). Then, of the calculated PERs, the PER corresponding to a reported CQI

equal to the fixed CQI, the PER corresponding to a reported CQI one level higher than the fixed CQI, and the PER corresponding to a reported CQI one level lower than the fixed CQI, are output to determination section 270.

5 In determination section 270, the PER corresponding to a reported CQI equal to the fixed CQI is first compared with a predetermined threshold value A (ST1300). If the result is that the PER exceeds threshold value A, a reported CQI so high that the communication apparatus cannot
10 achieve the desired PER has been reported most frequently – that is, the reported CQI is too high relative to the actual propagation environment – and this communication apparatus fails the reported CQI accuracy measurement test (ST1700).

15 If the result of the determination in ST1300 is that the PER is less than or equal to threshold value A, the PER corresponding to a reported CQI one level higher than the fixed CQI is compared with a predetermined threshold value B (ST1400). If the result is that the PER exceeds
20 threshold value B, this indicates that accuracy measurement data has not been received correctly despite the fact that the communication apparatus determined the propagation environment to be comparatively good, and as propagation environment measurement variance is large,
25 or the reported CQI is too high relative to the actual propagation environment, this communication apparatus fails the reported CQI accuracy measurement test (ST1700).

If the result of the determination in ST1400 is that the PER is less than or equal to threshold value B, the PER corresponding to a reported CQI one level lower than the fixed CQI is compared with a predetermined threshold value C (ST1500). If the result is that the PER is less than threshold value C, this indicates that accuracy measurement data has been received correctly despite the fact that the communication apparatus determined the propagation environment to be comparatively poor, and as propagation environment measurement variance is large, or the reported CQI is too low relative to the actual propagation environment, this communication apparatus fails the reported CQI accuracy measurement test (ST1700).

If the result of the determination in ST1500 is that the PER is greater than or equal to threshold value C, the reported CQI accuracy of the communication apparatus is appropriate, and this communication apparatus passes the reported CQI accuracy measurement test (ST1600).

Thus, according to this embodiment, test data is transmitted for a fixed period prior to a reported CQI accuracy measurement test, reported CQIs for that test data are accumulated and subject to statistical processing, and the reported CQI reported most frequently is taken as a fixed CQI. Then an accuracy measurement test is started, a PER is calculated for each reported CQI value based on reported CQIs and Ack/Nack data for accuracy measurement data transmitted with the fixed CQI,

and threshold value determination is performed using the PERs corresponding to a reported CQI equal to the fixed CQI and reported CQIs one level different from the fixed CQI, enabling reported CQI accuracy to be measured accurately without regard to the reception characteristics of the communication apparatus being tested, and also making it possible to detect a communication apparatus for which reported CQIs diverge from the actual propagation environment, and a communication apparatus for which propagation environment measurement variance is large.

The determination method used by determination section 270 explained in the above-described embodiment is just one example of a determination method for detecting a communication apparatus for which reported CQIs diverge from the actual propagation environment and a communication apparatus for which propagation environment measurement variance is large, and various other determination methods are possible.

For example, in the above-described embodiment, a communication apparatus for which reported CQIs diverge from the actual propagation environment, or for which propagation environment measurement variance is large, is detected by determining whether or not the PER corresponding to a reported CQI one level lower than a fixed CQI is greater than or equal to a predetermined threshold value, but it may instead be determined whether or not the PER corresponding to a reported CQI equal to

a fixed CQI, rather than a reported CQI one level lower than a fixed CQI, is greater than or equal to a predetermined threshold value.

Similarly, threshold value determination may be
5 performed for a reported CQI differing by two levels or more from a fixed CQI.

That is to say, a communication apparatus for which there is divergence between the actual propagation environment and reported CQIs may be detected by
10 performing threshold value determination for the PERs corresponding to a fixed CQI and a CQI differing from the fixed CQI by one level respectively.

In the above-described embodiment, the CQI reported most frequently from a communication apparatus is taken
15 as a fixed CQI, but the present invention is not limited to this, and a configuration may be used whereby one reported CQI among reported CQIs whose frequency is greater than or equal to a predetermined threshold value is decided upon as a fixed CQI using the results of reported
20 CQI statistical processing. A configuration may also be used whereby a reported CQI equivalent to the median value is decided upon as a fixed CQI based on the results of statistical processing.

Furthermore, in the above-described embodiment, CQI
25 reporting by a communication apparatus has been described as an example of channel quality reporting, but the present invention is not limited to this, and the present invention can be applied as long as a communication apparatus reports

information indicating the propagation environment.

The present invention is not limited to the above-described embodiment, and various variations and modifications may be possible without departing from the scope of the present invention. For example, when a communication apparatus undergoing a reported CQI accuracy measurement test receives a signal, the communication apparatus may obtain a reported CQI from the received signal and report that reported CQI to the communicating station, and also calculate an error rate corresponding to that reported CQI, establish a correspondence between the reported CQI and error rate, and store the reported CQI and error rate. Then, after the end of the accuracy measurement test, reported CQI accuracy determination may be performed on the communication apparatus side by having threshold value determination or the like performed for the stored reported CQIs and error rates.

As described above, according to the present invention the accuracy of channel quality reported from a communication apparatus can be measured correctly.

This application is based on Japanese Patent Application No.2003-016385 filed on January 24, 2003, the entire content of which is expressly incorporated by reference herein.

Industrial Applicability

The present invention is applicable to an accuracy

measurement apparatus and accuracy measurement method
for channel quality report.